

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/700,806  
Supplement Amendment dated February 1, 2006  
Response to Office Action of September 1, 2005

### **REMARKS**

This amendment is supplemental to the amendment filed on November 1, 2005 that was not entered by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the claims. Claims 14, 16, 17, 19, 25, 27, and 31-38 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 41, and 42 have been amended. After entry of the amendment, claims 1, 8, 10, 23, 24, 28-30, and 39-42 will be pending.

Applicants submit the amendment is supported throughout the specification, including at Table 2 beginning on page 36, and does not raise any issues of new matter.

The listing of pending claims in the current Final Office Action does not include claims 17 and 31, which were previously withdrawn by the Examiner as drawn to a non-elected species. Claims 17 and 31 have been cancelled in this amendment without prejudice.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to discuss the final Office Action and Advisory Action on January 23, 2006. Amendments to the claims, which are reflected in the Listing of Claims, were discussed.

### **Obviousness**

Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 16, 32, and 35-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Keyt et al. in view of Meyer et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 14 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice. The claims were cancelled solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution. Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejection and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

Claims 1 has been amended to require at least the substitution of certain amino acid residues at or between residues F17 to Y25. The claims have been amended solely for the purpose of advancing prosecution. Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejection.

The combination of references cited by the Examiner does not teach or suggest all the elements of the claims as amended. The primary reference, Keyt et al., does not teach or suggest VEGF variants having the claimed combination of amino acid substitutions. None of the

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secondary references remedy the shortcomings of the primary reference. Neither Meyer et al. nor Kroll et al. teach or suggest the VEGF variants as claimed.

Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

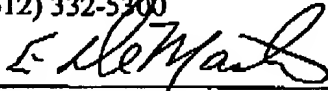
**Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 1, 2006

  
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE